

CLAIMS

1. Method of sterilizing a plastic surface by hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase being supplied to the 5 previously heated plastic surface, characterized in that the entire sterilization procedure is performed with the hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase.
2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the plastic surface is heated to a 10 temperature which is higher than the dew point for the hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase.
3. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the plastic surface comprises a polyester.
4. Method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the plastic surface comprises 15 polyethylene terephthalate.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 11 March 1998 (11.03.98);
original claims 1-4 replaced by new claims 1-5 (1 page)]

1. Method of sterilizing a plastic surface by
hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase being supplied to the
5 previously heated plastic surface, characterized
in that the entire sterilization procedure is
performed with the hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase and
that the plastic surface is heated to a temperature which
is higher than the dew point for the hydrogen peroxide in
10 gaseous phase.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized
in that the plastic surface comprises a
polyester.

15

3. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized
in that the plastic surface comprises
polyethylene terephthalate.

20

4. Method as claimed in claim 1 of sterilizing a
package material for a container, characterized
in that the package material having a plastic
surface is sterilized before the container has obtained its
final form.

25

5. Method as claimed in claim 4, characterized
in that the package material having a
plastic surface is sterilized continuously.

30